

From: Bill Murray
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am opposed to the current Microsoft settlement. The following points are examples of problems that I have:

Microsoft's business practices have reduced the amount of choice available to consumers. Splitting the company into OS and Application divisions would have placed Microsoft's applications group on equal footing with other software companies but this idea was abandoned.

Why has the definition of middleware been tied to specific version numbers of Microsoft products? Just because a new version of Internet Explorer or Windows Media Player comes out does not mean the product is no longer middleware.

The same flaw as the point above exists for the definition of Operating System. Why are the successors to Windows XP not considered to be Operating Systems?

Microsoft has used it's Windows monopoly to make Microsoft Office the standard productivity suite used in business. A word processor that can not open and save a Microsoft Word document has zero chance to gain market share today. The file formats for Office files should be released to the public to insure that competing products can open and save Office formatted documents.

Microsoft should not be allowed to retaliate against OEM's that ship some computers without a Microsoft OS. If the customer wants a PC with Linux installed the manufacturer should not face higher Windows licensing prices.

Microsoft should be forced to set one standard price for Windows licenses to ALL OEM's. Not just the top 20 OEM's. This price should not relate to the number of licenses purchased. Rebates should not be available to OEM's that bundle other Microsoft products (e.g. Office) with their computer.

Microsoft should not be allowed to sell it's compilers with a end user license agreement that prohibits software developers from using the compiler to create software that can be run on Windows compatible operating systems.

Microsoft is not prohibited from intentionally creating incompatibilities with the products of competitors in new versions of it's OS or Middleware.

These are some of the problems that I have with the current Microsoft Settlement.

Bill Murray